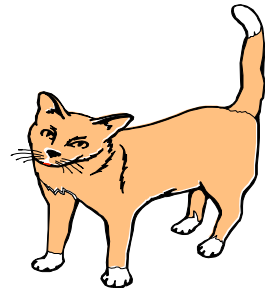


Keep Your Pet Safe

Household Hazards for Pets:

- Read product labels to ensure it is safe for pets. Heed the warning.
- Automotive products such as gasoline, oil and antifreeze should be stored in areas that are inaccessible to your pets. As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat weighing seven pounds; less than one tablespoon can be lethal to a dog weighing 20 pounds.
- Make sure your pets do not go on lawns or in gardens treated with fertilizers, herbicides or insecticides until they have dried completely. Always store such products in areas that are inaccessible to pets.
- Be aware of the plants you have in your home and yard. The ingestion of azalea, oleander, mistletoe, sago palm, Easter lily or yew plant material by an animal can be fatal.
- Many common household items can be lethal. Mothballs, potpourri oils, coffee grounds, batteries, etc. Keep away from animals.
- Cover up cords. Young pets, especially, will chew on just about anything, including electrical cords.
- Have animal emergency number posted near telephone.



Safe Pets in Summer Heat:

Playing safe in summer heat ensures that you and your best friend will fully enjoy the season.

- Dogs and cats do not sweat through their skin. They cool themselves by rapid breathing, and when the temperature outside is hot and close to their internal body temperature, it means animals must work hard to stay cool. So when it's hot for you, it's even hotter for them.
- Too much heat can be extremely dangerous and sometimes fatal. If your buddy has a shorter nose, like Persian cats and bulldogs, he is more susceptible to heatstroke than breeds with longer noses.
- If your dog or cat begins very rapid, noisy breathing, has trouble swallowing and looks very distressed, she could be having a heatstroke. Other symptoms include the tongue and gums turning bright red, saliva being thicker than usual, and the animal may vomit. As the situation worsens, the animal may become unsteady on her feet, the lips and gums become pale blue or gray, and the dog or cat loses consciousness.
- Heatstroke is an emergency. Get the animal out of the heat. Apply cold, wet towels to the back of the head. Place cold packs wrapped in towels or plain wet towels between the back legs and on the belly. Cool off your furry friend and then take her to the vet immediately.
- The best plan is to keep your dog and cat protected from the summer heat.

- Make sure that your dog or cat always has plenty of fresh water to drink. A bucket that holds a gallon or more of water will stay cool longer and is less likely to evaporate in the heat than water in a shallow pan. Some dogs love ice cubes, and you can add a few to the water bowl. Another good idea is to place your pets drinking dish in a shallow pit that has been dug in the ground. This will keep the water cool for a longer period of time longer.
- Dogs and cats do sweat a little through the pads of their feet. Cats don't volunteer to have water added to any part of their body, but dogs often enjoy having cool water on their feet to help them cool down, or you can apply rubbing alcohol to their pads. Some dogs enjoy walking through or even lying in a child's wading pool.
- Car interiors heat very quickly in the summer, even with the windows open. If it's 85 degrees outside, it will climb to 102 degrees within 10 minutes inside your car. In half an hour, it will reach 120 degrees or more! If it's 90 degrees out, temperatures can top 160 degrees faster than you can walk around the block. Therefore, it is dangerous to leave your dog or cat in a car for 5 minutes. If he can't go inside at every stop with you, he's safer at home on hot days!
- Animals that go outside need access to shade. Dark coats absorb heat. Lighter coated animals, especially white ones, are at higher risk for skin cancer from exposure to the sun and are more susceptible to sunburn.
- If longer-coated dogs and cats are brushed regularly, and their coats are in good shape, the coat will serve as insulation from the heat. If the coat has gotten matted, then a summer clip will make your buddy much more comfortable and allow you a new start at keeping him brushed. Newly clipped animals are more likely to get sunburned where the hair has been cut.
- If your dog spends time in the yard, make sure she has access to shade. Shade trees, a covered patio, or a cool spot under the porch can help keep her comfortable. Tethered dogs must have access to water if they are to survive in the heat.

